



# the **RARA RAG**

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## February 2007 RaRa General Meeting Notice

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD  
Vice-President, RARA

Meet Your Friends at RaRa and welcome our invited guests at the February 2, 2007 meeting. The Rochester Amateur Radio Association will host the members of the Rochester DX Association at a joint meeting to be held at the Henrietta Fire House RaRa meeting location. Don't miss this meeting. The Rochester DX Association celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and RaRa is joining in the celebration.

### W2RDX/60

What were you doing 60 years ago? Well, many of us weren't even "straight keys" at that point so Ed Gable, K2MP and Chris Shalvoy, K2CS will attempt to bring you up to speed.

This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rochester DX Association. Ed and Chris will bring you an overview of the club and sprinkle it with references to historical items and local events that many of you lived through. Several special operating events have been planned for this yearlong celebration and will be discussed after the presentation. Come relive a bit of amateur radio history and the glory days of ham radio in Rochester, NY.

## **RaRa/RDXA Joint MEETING**

**February 2, 2007  
7:30 P.M.**

Henrietta Fire Hall #1  
3129 East Henrietta Road  
**Ed Gable, K2MP & Chris Shalvoy,  
K2CS talk about W2RDX/60**

## Spring Licensing Classes

by Brad Armstrong, W1YX  
License Class Coordinator, RARA

The big change for the Spring session is that there will be no attempt made to offer a formal Morse code class. Due to the imminent changes to Part 97 rules concerning licensing requirements there will no longer be a need for this. We will continue to offer Morse code instruction to those desiring it by putting any students with an interest in the code directly in touch with our capable instructors to schedule ad hoc sessions as needed.

The Spring session of the Club's licensing classes will be starting a little later this year than in the past. Normally we aim to begin in February, but this time around it will be at least March before we get started. I have been working to obtain a new location for the classes, while continuing to work with RIT on what is still available there. It is undecided at this point what the exact schedule will be, but I can tell you that I expect it to consist of either 8 to 9 weekday evening sessions or 6 Saturday morning sessions.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to publicly commend and thank the volunteer instructors who continue to give their time and energy to teaching these classes. Our stable of instructors includes some of the brightest and most effective communicators I know.

Please read next month's Rag and watch the club website for more information on the exact dates and location for the classes.

**RaRa Memorial  
Scholarship  
Application Deadline  
April 15, 2007**

# the RARa RAG

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## The Prez Sez

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY  
President, RARA

How many local hams have been in or on the local media in the past months? How many local clubs have been mentioned in the papers and on broadcasts? Lots! See some of the other articles in the RAG!

Many thanks to PIO W2ZEY Larry Wallnau for his work in providing coverage for ham radio. This also brings up the fact that ALL hams are involved in the public information endeavor. All hams need to keep their 'best foot forward' in all our dealings. We are representing the ham community all the time. For example, a van with ham vehicle plates driving in an inconsiderate manner does not reflect well on us. 'Nuff said.

Please welcome Frank Schramm, WB2PYD to the RARA Board of Directors. Frank is filling out the term of one of the vacant BoD positions and has been licensed since 1977. As a reminder, the nominations committee, headed up by VP Jim DiTucci N2IXD, will be looking for next year's leadership. One of the requirements for a leadership position is that prospects must disagree with existing leadership! Seriously, though, and I guess General Patton said it best, "If all of us think the same, some of us are unnecessary." RARA is of course looking for talented people who can work on difficult problems: Easy problems should already be solved. Members with differing and unique ideas, brainstorming, skills and abilities will be put to good use in finding solutions to upcoming problems. If you are interested in a particular aspect of ham radio, modes, instructing, scanner laws, public service, management, or event planning then let me or anyone in the organization know -- copy all of RARA in if you like!

Some of the FCC licensing requirements have changed, some people have moved out of the area, some people have gotten sick. Again, our environment is changing and RARA, through 'keeping our eye on the goal', education, hard work and 'out of the box' ideas, will continue to serve our membership.

Program suggestions for upcoming meetings, projects and other endeavors are continuing to roll in -- please keep the new ideas coming. RARA can provide a lot of what you want from your ham radio avocation -- you just have to let us know what you want. Meet all your friends at RARA, Meet all your friends at the Rochester Hamfest! Start planning for the upcoming spring contest season. Winter is coming, which means that antenna work must begin when the mercury dips below 30F!



# RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, February 1987

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RARA Historian

The February meeting brought a chap all the way from the San Francisco Bay area to speak on "Emergency Communications California Style." The presenter, John Murphy, K6ILN, using video tape, told of how Amateurs provided communications for the many forest fires they have to contend with. The venue was the 40/8 Club at 933 University avenue.

As reported in detail in last month's *20 Years Ago*, John Lloyd, KA2KFV, repeated his invitation and gave last minute details on the RaRa Winter Fun Fest held at Mendon Ponds Park.

Writing for the *Young Ladies Radio League* was Marcy Kessler, WA2URE, who invited YL's and OM's alike to join in on the YL-OM contests, with both phone and CW weekends available. Marcy provided all the necessary details including exchanges, suggested frequencies and log submissions. A consistent winner of the CW weekend, on the OM side was C. Friend Stafford, W2AAU, of Spencerport, NY. On the YL side, it was hard to beat out our own Lia Zwack, WA2NFY, of Rochester.

Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, wrote inviting folks to sign up for the Spring RaRa Licensing Courses. This session planned to teach Novice, Tech/General and Advanced classes, starting February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 111 Westfall Road site. Advance registration was required by contacting Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF. From the Want Ads you could buy transmitting vacuum tubes from Jim Shipkowski, WB2WWV.

## Antique Wireless Association Spring Meet

By Ed Gable, K2MP/W2AN  
Curator, AWA Museum

The AWA, after two wonderfully successful Spring Meets at the Bloomfield Elementary School location, is planning to do it again. Save the Date now, Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Come and enjoy a flea market with emphasis on vintage gear, a fun auction, talks, refreshments and meeting with friends and other vintage radio enthusiasts. This will also be the opening day of the Museum for the 2007 season. Details to follow, but DO save the date now. I mean it, put down the Rag for a minute and mark the calendar NOW. Contact General Chairman Ron Roach, W2FUI, with questions on flea market spaces and the like.

## From the desk of the RRRA President

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY  
President, RRRA

Our meeting is on February 16, 8:00 Pittsford Town Hall. I wish to thank all that helped out at the "Alternative Communications" display at the museum and science center. Everyone seemed to have a great time. We showed Echolink as an entry level get on the air mode along with IRLP. We also had APRS and Packet demos. I had a repeater on site "LIVE" for the kids to try out.

Keep an eye on the website <http://www.rrra.us> for details on RRRA.

## Scholarship Deadline Coming

By George Masny, KA2GPJ  
Treasurer, RARA

The "Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship" was established with generous donations made in memory of A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF; William Buchan, W2OMV and William Resch, K4VOS. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school beyond high school. The individual must be a member of RARA and a resident of New York State. The scholarship is for one individual in one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years. Previous winners of the Scholarship include Kellie Gauvin, KB2CHC, (01); Kristy Dibelka, KC2GKE, (02); John McIntyre, KC2JSJ, (03 & 04); Alexander Rossbach, KC2JUN, (05) and Robbie Escriva, KC2DQN, (06).

Applications are due no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>. The RaRa Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee will make a final decision by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The actual award will be presented at the annual RARA Hamfest Banquet held June 1, 2007.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa phone at 585-442-0587. The application is also available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at:

<http://www.rochesterham.org/scholarship.htm>.

Donations may be made to the Scholarship Fund in memory of W2WPF, W2OMV, K4VOS or any other silent key, or if you would just like to make a donation to the fund, it should be sent to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Memorial Scholarship, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333. All donations are "Tax Deductible".



# Public Service Events Coming Up Soon,

By Keith Freeberg, N2BEL  
Public Service Coordinator, RARA

It is not too early to start looking at your calendars. The very first event this year is Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Upstate NY MS Walk taking place locally in Rochester and Greece. Of course we could use some extra help at Geneseo College as well. This will be one of those very short events that you can work with your handheld or mobile. The event will feature a walking course of about two miles and possibly a short course for those not quite up to a two mile trek.

Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> is the fourteenth annual Tour de Cure, a bike ride that starts and ends in Mendon Ponds Park again this year. Of course, breakfast and lunch are provided for all Ham Radio volunteers with this year's lunch supplied again by Outback Steakhouse! Folks raved about the food and the fun last year and there are additional improvements being worked on for this year including a Wine Tent.

This event really requires a mobile radio, primarily, for use at the Rest Stops and in the Safety and Gear Vehicles. If you don't have a mobile, a limited number are available for loan during the event. This event is a perennial favorite with volunteers as the American Diabetes Association is known for treating their volunteers very, very well. True, it is also a great cause and Ham Radio is written right into the event charter. So, mark your calendar now! By the way, the whole family can volunteer for this event making it possible for all of you to enjoy a day of helping others together.

Looking for a fun, family oriented way to celebrate the Fourth of July? The Spirit of America Celebration is for you. This event features never ending activities for children and a fantastic fireworks display. Feeding your family while at this event is easy as the prices are 'old fashioned' and won't break the bank. Although the event starts at 2:30 PM and lasts until about 11:30 we are only looking for three hour shifts to walk with volunteer EMTs just in case someone skins a knee.

All you will need for this event is your HT, perhaps a spare battery, and comfortable shoes. The time goes quickly and your family can come with you or meet you there. This event is free and open to the public and had an attendance last year slightly in excess of 10,000 people. Your help is really needed and appreciated. Contingents of the Greece Police and the Greece Volunteer Ambulance are located on site near Net Control to make life easy.

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There are lots more events coming up and checking [www.RochesterHam.org](http://www.RochesterHam.org) can give you a comprehensive list. Please check your calendar and sign up for one of these superb events. Call Keith @ 585-254-0722 or email; [n2bel@arrl.net](mailto:n2bel@arrl.net) today!

## Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY  
PIO, ARRL WNY Section

**Local Ham Celebrities.** RARA has had plenty of reason to be proud lately. Two of our members were in the media spotlight. Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, was a guest on 1370 Connections (1370 AM) with guest host Richard McCullough. The show aired in late December and the segment was devoted to hobbies. Keith spoke on behalf of ham radio. In January, Peter Fournia, W2SKY, ran an ARISS contact with fifth-grade students at Sherman School in Henrietta. On the other end of the QSO was Astronaut Sunita Williams, operating as NA1SS, in the International Space Station. The next day, an article appeared in the *Democrat and Chronicle* about the event, as well as a photograph that included Peter. Way to go guys!

**Ham Assists Sailor in Distress.** A California radio amateur played a part in an international effort to rescue a US sailor attempting to single-handedly circumnavigate the globe. Miguel "Mike" Morales, KC6CYK, of Riverside, told ARRL he was able to contact fellow radio amateurs in Chile to obtain and relay reassuring information to the family of Ken Barnes, whose 44-foot ketch *Pivateer* was foundering off South America. A Chilean trawler, *Polar Pesca 1*, rescued Barnes from his disabled vessel on January 5. Upon learning of Barnes's predicament on January 2, Morales said he contacted the sailor's fiancée, Cathy Chambers. "She mentioned that the satellite telephone was dying on him over there, so their communication was 30 to 60 seconds at a time," Morales recounted. "I was lucky enough, I got in touch with some of the Charlie Echo [CE-prefix] stations until I got to someone in Punta Arenas, and then *Polar Pesca*, the vessel that did the rescue." Morales speaks fluent Spanish and has visited Chile and knew "the way things operate down there." As a result, he says, he was able to obtain credible reports via his 10-meter contacts as to what was happening. Morales said he was able to gather information via his Chilean ham radio contacts from the *Polar Pesca 1*. He relayed information about Barnes's location and when he was going to be rescued. Morales said he felt it was



important for the family to know Barnes's situation and how the rescue plans were playing out. Barnes, who's 47, left Long Beach, California, late last October, hoping to be the first person to sail around the world from the West Coast. A severe storm dismantled the badly damaged vessel and soaked his supplies. The Chilean Navy dispatched one of the CP3 Orion aircraft Chile uses to patrol its 200-mile-offshore territorial claim. The plane spotted the foundering vessel, photographed it and even attempted to drop a life raft that missed its mark. The Chilean Navy coordinated the operation and recruited the Polar Pesca 1 to undertake the actual rescue, although Morales says the US Coast Guard agreed to cover the expense. At that point he was able to pass along news to the family that the trawler was en route to Barnes's location. "The main thing is, Ken Barnes is back, is alive," Morales said. "What I did was on behalf of the US ham radio community, I believe. That's what you're there for." (ARRL Newsletter)

**ARES Activated for Colorado Snowstorms.** A major Colorado snowstorm just after Christmas prompted Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams to activate for the second time in less than 10 days along Colorado's Front Range -- the state's most populous region. The December 28 storm dumped upward of three feet of snow on and around Denver, stranding both air and highway travelers. The area was just starting to recover from a pre-Christmas blizzard that stranded holiday travelers and brought the Denver area to a near-standstill when the second snowstorm struck. Colorado Section Emergency Coordinator Ben Baker, KB0UBZ, reports that all Colorado ARES teams had stood down as of Monday, January 1. The last to terminate operations were the volunteers at the Colorado State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), who held down the fort until 3 PM on New Year's Day. (ARRL Newsletter)

**AMSAT-NA to Build "Eagle" at Maryland Facility.** AMSAT-NA will relocate its Satellite Integration Lab to the Hawk Institute for Space Sciences (HISS) in Pocomoke City on Maryland's Eastern Shore and construct its Eagle satellite (<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/eagle/>) there. A division of the Maryland Hawk Corporation, HISS is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) campus. "I consider these happenings to be a serious beginning of the activities towards a real spacecraft," commented AMSAT Vice President for Engineering Bob McGwier, N4HY. The new site will replace AMSAT's former lab facility in Orlando, Florida, damaged beyond repair during Hurricane Charley in August 2004. With

the unanimous approval of its board of directors, AMSAT-NA has executed memoranda of understanding with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and with Maryland Hawk Corporation to formalize the relationship. Per the agreements, AMSAT-NA will gain essentially no-cost access to the HISS facility in return for sharing its equipment and ideas with HISS as well as limited access to the NASA Wallops Flight Facility, which includes environmental testing, machine shop, rocket manufacturing and launch facilities. In addition, AMSAT-NA will work with UMES to identify opportunities to work together on satellite and related technology projects as well as to work with students and faculty to enhance hands-on studies and research. (ARRL Newsletter)

## February Calendar of events

- 2 - RaRa/RDXA Joint Meeting - 7:30 PM -  
Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 9 - RVHFG - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at  
Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 11 - RaRa Board of Directors - 5:00PM-RIT  
Bldg-17, Room 2110
- 16 - RRRA - 8:00PM, monthly meeting at  
Pittsford Town Hall, basement meeting room.
- 17 - RaRa VE Testing session - 10:00AM Bldg-9  
Room-3139 RIT Campus, Henrietta

## For Sale:

My father, K2BYR, Roy, passed away recently and I have his radio equipment for sale. The equipment is: Kenwood TS-430S Transceiver with Kenwood 430 Power Supply and Kenwood AT-250 Tuner. This is all in working condition with complete manuals. Contact: Bruce Schwendy (585) 247-5613

**Rochester Hamfest  
June 1-2-3, 2007**

**March RAG Deadline  
February 7, 2007**

# ARISS – Henrietta Event Results

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY  
Chairman, Education Committee, RARA

Following is what the ARRL published about our contact with the International Space Station from a school in Henrietta. Many local hams followed the event and listened to the ISS downlink. Further information about the event along with links to the audio and video are on the RARA web site: [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org). Thanks to the many hams that helped on this highly successful event.

## \*\*\*\*\* ARRL release \*\*\*\*\*

At Sherman Elementary School in Henrietta, New York, the possibility of a human space flight to Mars has been the focus of teacher Andrea Catena's fifth grade science pupils. The youngsters expanded their knowledge of life in space when they spoke via ham radio January 8 with Suni Williams. ARISS arranged the direct VHF contact between W2SKY at the school and NA1SS. Responding to one question, Williams explained that it takes more than a day to get ready for a spacewalk from the ISS. "Part of the reason is that we breathe pure oxygen, so we don't want to get 'the bends' when we go out into space, so, we have to start 'pre-breathing' the oxygen the day before" Williams told the youngsters. "And then, to get all the tools together it takes a good four or five hours."

Williams, who joined the Expedition 14 space station crew in December, said the most exciting part of her mission so far was her first spacewalk. "Actually coming out the door and seeing the world in your face for the first time, it was absolutely exhilarating!" she recounted. Williams, 41, said she first thought about becoming a member of the NASA Astronaut Corps "later in life," after she'd become a test pilot.

Members of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA) set up the necessary Earth station equipment at the school to make the QSO possible. "We had an excellent ARISS experience at Emma Sherman Elementary School yesterday," said RARA Education Committee Chairman Pete Fournia, W2SKY, who loaned his call sign for the occasion. "The school took full advantage of this opportunity making it a very memorable experience for the entire school and a very gratifying experience for the teams that participated," he said. The youngsters squeezed 16 questions into the nearly 10-minute ISS pass. The ham radio event attracted generous media attention from newspapers and television stations.

# W1AW 2007 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule: Time Mode Days

1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWs Wed, Fri  
1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWf Tue, Thu

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri  
2100 " " CWs Tue, Thu  
2200 " (5 PM EST) CWb Daily  
2300 " (6 PM EST) RTTY Daily  
0000 " (7 PM EST) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri  
0000 " " CWf Tue, Thu  
0100 " (8 PM EST) CWb Daily  
0200 " (9 PM EST) RTTY Daily  
0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily  
0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri  
0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu  
0400 " (11 PM EST) CWb Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975  
21.0675 28.0675 147.555  
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095  
28.095 147.555  
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390  
28.590 147.555

## RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements needed  
to complete a license class.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each  
Month, Sept. – April

Registration – 10:00AM  
Testing – 10:15AM

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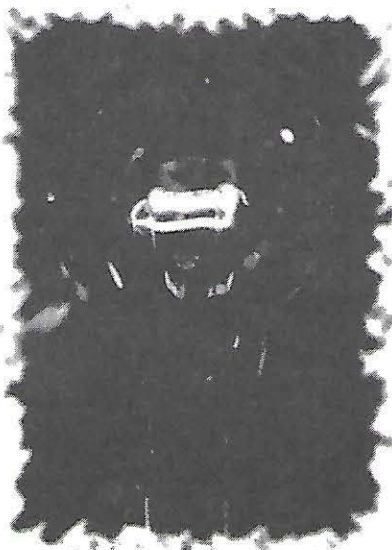
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